



Lansing Asks Clearer Admission of U-Boat Guilt

HUGHES BARS USE OF NAME AS CANDIDATE

Denies Knowing of
Plan to Put Him in
Presidential Race.

OUT OF POLITICS, JUSTICE ASSERTS

Politicians Notice That He
Fails to Declare He
Wouldn't Accept.

(From The Tribune Bureau.)

Washington, Feb. 9.—Justice Charles Evans Hughes declares positively in a letter given out to-day that he is entirely out of politics, knows nothing of any activities in behalf of obtaining Hughes delegates to the Republican convention and is opposed to the use of his name in connection with the nomination. Activities of ex-Postmaster General Frank H. Hitchcock to line up the Virginian delegation for Justice Hughes were alleged in a letter written to the justice by C. Bascom Slemmons, the only Republican Representative from Virginia.

In giving out the correspondence, Mr. Slemmons expressed the hope that the states of the South would send unopposed delegations to the Republican convention.

Much interest was taken in Washington to-night in the correspondence, since it has been known ever since the meeting of the Republican National Committee here that Mr. Hitchcock was "pushing" politically for some purpose, but very few persons had been intimate his confidence.

Avoids a Refusal.

It was noted in a careful reading of the Hughes letter, however, that the justice had not used the phrase which politicians opposed to him had been hoping for but which he had so far refrained from using—that he would not accept the nomination if it were offered to him. Justice Hughes's letter in full reads:

My Dear Mr. Slemmons:

Your letter of February 3 has been received. I am entirely out of politics and I know nothing whatever of the matters to which you refer. I am totally opposed to the use of my name in connection with the nomination and to selection or instruction of any delegates in my interest, either directly or indirectly. Very sincerely yours,
CHARLES E. HUGHES.

While it is known that certain Republican politicians have been trying to "smoke out" Justice Hughes in his attitude toward the nomination, the letter written by Mr. Slemmons bears all the earmarks of a bona fide inquiry. Mr. Slemmons represented to Justice Hughes that he was being injured by the campaign waged by Mr. Hitchcock, and the letter was not only trying to obtain the Virginia delegation for Hughes without consulting Mr. Slemmons, but was trying to depose the Representative as chairman of the Republican State Committee on the ground that Slemmons was opposed to Hughes. Mr. Slemmons declares he is not willing to be put in this position.

The Virginian intimated to the justice the other letter written to a friend in his by Colonel S. Brown Allen, ex-Postmaster of Staunton, Va., which declared a meeting of prominent Republican politicians in New York which forced Hughes, and said that Governor Whitman would lead the Hughes fight. Hitchcock, this letter said, would be made chairman of the Republican National Committee in place of Hill, and Postmaster General after the election. The letter added that no step would be taken to incur the enmity of Hughes, as the nominee would surely be Hughes or Roosevelt.

Mr. Slemmons's Letter.

The letter from Mr. Slemmons to Justice Hughes reads:

"I take the liberty of writing to you in regard to a political situation that has developed in the State of Virginia. Conventions are called in the state to select delegates to attend the Republican National Convention at Chicago June 1. The state convention is called for Richmond March 29, the district convention at various times and places in respective districts.

"There is a general feeling in the state that the delegates in the state should go to the national convention unopposed, and there, with the Republicans from the other states in the most valuable of our state committee, a number of Congressmen from the only Republican district in the state.

"About ten days ago a movement started in the state, directed from New York City by Frank H. Hitchcock, former Postmaster General, favoring Mr. Hughes as the Republican nominee. He secured around him in our state a number of his appointees—R. E. Cable, former Commissioner of Internal Revenue, now living in Richmond; H. A. Davis, postmaster under Mr. Hitchcock

MARJORIE'S BATTLESHIP.



Marjorie Sterrett.

To the Editor of The Tribune.
Dear Sir: I read in your paper every morning a lot about preparedness. My grandpa and great-grandpa were soldiers. If I was a boy I would be a soldier, too. But I am not, so I want to do what I can to help. Mama gives me a dime every week for helping her. I am sending you this week's dime to help build a battleship for Uncle Sam. I know a lot of other kids who would give their errand money if you would start a fund. I am thirteen years old and go to Public School 9, Brooklyn. Yours truly,
MARJORIE STERRETT.

I am true blue American, and I want to see Uncle Sam prepared to lick all creation like John Paul Jones did.

P. S.—Please call the battleship America.

Since this letter was printed dimes and dollars have flowed into The Tribune office unceasingly. Other papers across the country have reprinted the letter and the dollars have flowed in upon them.

Marjorie has asked The Tribune to take care of her fund until it grows big enough to build a battleship, or at least some kind of a ship worthy of the traditions of John Paul Jones. The Tribune cannot undertake to enter into correspondence about the fund, but it will print a daily list of contributors, and every one who sends a dime or a dollar or a million dollars to The Tribune for the fund will receive a button bearing the legend "U. S. S. America." That will be your receipt for a patriotic deed.

REFUSES \$250 BID FOR T. R. LETTER

Marjorie Sterrett Scorns
Big Offer for Precious
Battleship Note.

A week ago to-day a dime dropped out of a letter in The Tribune's mail bag, with the naive request that it start a fund to buy a battleship. This morning the coin has reached the healthy size of \$133.30—"Marjorie's Battleship Fund" has launched itself in an amazingly short time. It is a real self-starter!

Letters of all denominations, sizes and accents are fast cluttering the one drawer originally assigned to hold them. Real 16-inch letters most of them are, and loaded to the muzzle with sure-fire patriotism. Letters written in pencil by hands so tiny that the words sprawl down it at an alarming angle, business-like letters that chapter tidy checks—and then there is one lavender letter from a pacifist!

Now for the mystery! Just at supper time last evening a stranger called at Marjorie Sterrett's home and asked to see the famous Roosevelt letter that the girl is determined to keep for her own grandchildren. He appeared demurely interested, gave Marjorie a few dimes, and then offered her \$100 for the precious manuscript.

"Nothing doing!" came the reply in martial tones.

"Will you take \$150 \$200 \$250 for it, then?" asked the man, John A. Straley, of 282 Halsted Street, Brooklyn. "I have nothing more to say," replied Marjorie, just as if a lawyer had prompted her. Straley thereupon decided that his own supper must be getting cold and departed in the same mysterious manner in which he came. Whom he represented he consistently refused to divulge, and Marjorie did not even bother to take the usual three guesses.

Grace G. Drayton, the artist, was so impressed by the idea of "Marjorie's Battleship" that she sent a drawing yesterday of children bringing their dimes to drop into Marjorie's bank. With it came a contribution for the whole family, including two canaries!

In order that all children of all ages contributing to the battleship may have something suitable to show for their patriotism those sending their dimes to The Tribune direct will receive a button indicating that they have enlisted in the ranks that are going to swell until every child in the United States has been reached. The buttons, which will bear the caption "U. S. S. America" and a suitable design, will be ready for distribution in about one week.

Among the missives yesterday was that lavender one, which speaks for it-

AUTO BETRAYS BAFF SLAYERS

Chauffeur Who Got \$90
Confesses—Accuses
Convict Gunman.

POLICE GROPE MANY MONTHS

Murder Broker Killed and
Trail to Men Higher Up
Dimmed by Death.

The New York police announced yesterday that they had found the slayer of Barnett Raff, the poultry king of West Washington Market, who was killed by gunmen in front of his office on the evening of November 23, 1914. Between that date and the arrest of Frank Ferrara and Giuseppe Arcola, yesterday, lies the story of more than fourteen months of plodding, careful, persistent following of the trail of the man's slayers.

Ferrara, chauffeur of the murder car in which the killers escaped, spent last night in Police Headquarters. Arcola, said by the prisoner to be one of the murderers, is being hurried back from Napanoch Reformatory, where he is serving a term for carrying concealed weapons.

Who stood behind these two men and their attack on Raff, who formulated the plot by which the business man ceased to be a competitor of his weaker associates, the police do not know.

The murder was strictly a business proposition. Ferrara received \$90 for his share in it. Ippolito Greco, a ruler in Harlem's Little Italy, the police say, paid it into his hand the night after the killing. The chauffeur, who is also a plumber, does not know where Greco got the funds, and Greco, the all important link in the evidence chain leading to the men higher up, was shot to death in the notorious "murder stable," his property, at 334 East 108th Street, several months ago.

Linking Witness Slain.

Were Greco alive the tortuous trail which the detectives have followed for more than a year might now be nearing its end. It is believed that the Italian was "put away" because he knew too much of the affair.

District Attorney Swann hurried to Police Headquarters yesterday afternoon when it was learned that Ferrara had confessed. Other witnesses were summoned by the police, and the prosecutor spent most of the afternoon questioning them. It was he who sent for Arcola. While on the bench Judge Swann sentenced the man to his term in the reformatory.

Ferrara lives at 224 East 107th Street with his wife and three children. He is small, olive skinned and dapper in appearance. In idle hours the driver of the murder car fills in as chauffeur for the Market Garage, 435 East 104th Street.

The car itself, in which the gunmen fled from the body of their quarry, was discovered in this garage last August. Not until last week did the detectives discover who drove it on its mission the afternoon of November 23, 1914.

When the machine sped away, leaving Raff gasping on the sidewalk, these were the only traces of the crime which the police could gain, besides the dead man and the .38-calibre bullets driven into his body. That the car was chocolate color, two seated, and had its top up. It sported behind it a blue cloud of burning oil that made its license number almost indistinguishable. Several persons caught a glimpse of the figures and were certain that they were in the 2400s.

By August of 1915 they had run down all of the cars bearing license numbers of the 2400 series and believed that the machine in the Market Garage was the automobile used by the slayers. Patsy Garofalo, owner of the place, professed ignorance regarding this, and things held at a deadlock for some time.

Run on Clink by Chance.

Meanwhile the police were searching in every direction for possible clues. On November 7, 1915, Greco, saloon-keeper, gang leader and crime merchant of Little Italy, was killed in the "murder stable," in which Mrs. Pasquella Spinelli, the "Hetty Green" of Little Italy, was murdered on March 20, 1912.

W. A. Jones, acting captain of the 53d Branch Detective Bureau, and Andrew J. Wines, acting captain of the 5th Branch Detective Bureau, both placed men at work to run down the slayers. Their work was unavailing as far as arrests were concerned, and they turned in detailed reports to case at this time were Captain Carey and Inspector Gray. They had unearthed an isolated clue, which became valuable when confirmed by certain statements in Wines' and Jones' reports. What the exact nature of the information was, Deputy Commissioner Gray Scull, under whose direction the arrest of Ferrara was made, refused to say yesterday.

Scull, Gray, Wines, Jones and Deputy Commissioner Lord held a long secret conference last Sunday. Yesterday's disclosures were the direct result of this. Ferrara was under surveillance

On Way to Opera, Hear Bullets Sing

Sedate Couple in Limousine
Compelled by Police to
Join Wild Auto Chase.

A certain sedate man and woman who had motored to the theatre district to attend the opera last night returned home to tell of a brief but exciting few minutes in which they acted as police aids, breathed real battle smoke and heard bullets patter around them.

James Gorman, whose present address is the Roosevelt Hospital, was fate's instrument in changing the plans of the principals in the little thriller that was staged at 8 o'clock last evening. He was crossing Tenth Avenue at Fifty-seventh Street, when a skidding automobile, driven by Frank Gellert, of Corona, Long Island, knocked him down and broke his right leg.

Petrolman James Fogel and the driver of the car lifted him into the machine and rushed him to the hospital. The policeman was helping an interne carry the injured man in when, just as they reached the door, there was a series of explosions from the motor in the street and Gellert disappeared in a cloud of dust.

Confronted with a choice of duties toward his escaping prisoner and the injured man, the policeman dropped his end of the hospital patient and rushed down Tenth Avenue. At Fifty-eighth Street he encountered the machine of the sedate man and woman in evening clothes, and, without a word of explanation, clambered in.

"After that guy, in a hurry!" shouted the policeman to the astounded driver of the machine.

If there was any inclination to refuse, it disappeared when the policeman drew his revolver, and pointing it out over the radiator of the machine, fired at the fleeing car. At Fifty-seventh Street the fugitive turned east and, at the risk of running down theatre-going men and women, raced over to Sixth Avenue.

The pursuing machine was gaining when it turned into Sixth Avenue and followed south. Several more revolver shots were fired at the fleeing car without so much as nipping a tire. At Fifty-sixth Street the foremost machine turned west at such speed as to threaten to overturn.

Several more shots, a volley of shouts and warnings, and the flashing of patrol box lights failed to have any effect. At Tenth Avenue and Fifty-fifth Street Gellert finally gave up the thought of escape and surrendered. The policeman sprang into his car and, without the formality of asking his enforced assistants for their names, he drove to the West Forty-seventh Street station.

"I just guess I must have been crazy," explained Gellert. "I didn't want to be arrested."

"Yes, you were crazy," said the policeman. "I wasn't going to arrest you at all until this happened. Now you go to a cell for assault."

T. R. FIRST AND LAST, MOOSE MEN PLEDGE

Every Candidate Must Swear
Before He Can Be Approved.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted last night by the executive committee of the New York County Committee of the National Progressive party:

Resolved, That this committee is of the unanimous opinion that no delegate or alternate be sent from New York County to the national convention of the National Progressive party at Chicago unless he shall support Colonel Theodore Roosevelt for President, first and last and the time; and that every candidate for delegate or alternate shall so pledge himself before being approved by this body.

\$1,000,000 NECKLACE ARRIVES SECRETLY

Fifty Pearls in String, Finest
Ever Imported.

A necklace of pearls, said to be worth more than \$1,000,000, was entered at the custom house yesterday as imported from Max Meyer, the London and Paris gem expert, by Dreier & Co., 500 Fifth Avenue.

In spite of the secrecy which attended the arrival of the necklace on a French liner steamer two weeks ago and its removal to the appraiser's for examination, it is said to be composed of fifty of the rarest, most magnificent pearls that ever passed through the custom house. Gem experts said that the royal houses of Europe could not duplicate them.

With the possible exception of a few gems held by native princes in India, it is reported that the Dreier necklace is the richest string of pearls in the world.

Michael Dreier refuses to discuss its history.

WILSON HALTS SCUTTLE BILL

Sees the Need of New
Provisions for the
Philippines.

WILL CONSULT PARTY LEADERS

Business Men Want to
Know How Islands
Will Be Ruled.

(From The Tribune Bureau.)

Washington, Feb. 9.—Convinced of the necessity of changes in the Philippines bill, particularly in providing some form of government for the islands after the American sovereignty is withdrawn, President Wilson will consult this week with several leaders from both Senate and House.

In the meantime, nothing will be done by the House Committee on Insular Affairs, to which the bill was referred. It is not proposed to hold any hearings by the committee, nor is any great delay expected in getting the measure up for a vote, but the House leaders wish to delay action until the President has finally made up his mind as to changes.

President Wilson desires especially to learn whether the leaders in the Senate would oppose insertion in the bill of a plan of government to be adopted by the islands and enforced after the American flag is hauled down. The bill as now drafted sets forth at great length a plan of government to last during the short remaining time of American sovereignty. After that would come chaos.

Differ as to Power.

Senator Clarke, of Arkansas, who drafted the provision for independence in from two to four years, contends that its language is broad enough to provide for the convening of a Philippine Constitutional Convention and the election of officers for the government of the islands. This view is not held by many able lawyers, who consider that if such a thing should be done by the President, through suggestions or directions to the present Philippine authorities, it would be an assumption of power not granted in the bill.

There is a feeling among legislators that the present crutches of the bill will cause much unfavorable comment all over the world as to American methods. Casting the islands adrift without any provision for safeguarding their independence or business interests would be bad enough, it is thought, but to fail to provide any properly authorized government to take up the reins of power when they are laid down by the United States is regarded as not justified, even by the exponents of many Democrats to get rid of the islands at once.

Some of the Senate leaders, however, fear that if the bill is seriously modified it may be very difficult for friends of the Clarke amendment to hold their strength, and for that reason they are lending every effort to prevent any radical change in the measure. It is this situation which has brought about the White House conferences, in which it is hoped that the wrinkles will be smoothed out.

Business Men Want Certainty.

Letters from practically every business interest in the islands are pouring in against the Clarke amendment. Heads of American business houses with large interests in the islands have been alarmed by the unsettled conditions which they know will follow passage of the bill. Virtually all of them say that, while they prefer that the islands be retained permanently by the United States, they would rather have almost any kind of a provision than that outlined in the Clarke amendment. Most of them unite in urging members of the House to support the old Jones bill, which was passed by the House last year, and which contained merely the preamble providing for independence when the Philippines were fitted for it.

GERMANY TO UNLEASH U-BOATS, PREDICTS BRITISH OFFICIAL

(By Cable to The Tribune.)

London, Feb. 9.—A high government official told The Tribune to-day that there was only one reason why Germany made such a stand against the use of the word "illegality" in the Lusitania settlement.

"It is practically certain," he said, "that Germany is preparing for the immediate resumption of the submarine campaign on a big scale; consequently, it does not want to be hampered by any considerations of legality."

"Once it is admitted that it is in accordance with international law to sink passenger ships at sight, Germany will be able to work unfettered."

SWISS DIVIDED IN ARMY CRISIS

Nation Threatened with a
Dreyfus Case Over Two
Officers' Arrest.

By GORDON GORDON-SMITH.

(By Cable to The Tribune.)

Lugano, Feb. 9.—Switzerland is threatened by a grave internal crisis. Many people regard the situation as the most critical the Swiss Republic has ever faced.

It becomes like that in France just before the Dreyfus case, when the Republican majority began to realize that a conference with Lord Curzon and Sir Douglas Haig, who were sent at his special request for information from the Allied governments.

Aside from a promise to restore the kingdom as it was before the war, Germany offered to return King Albert to the Belgian throne and pay a big indemnity. Germany reserved the right to hold Antwerp and Ostend as German ports. Naturally, neither Albert nor Great Britain was willing to grant this concession under any consideration, so the offer has been flatly turned down.

With the Germans out of Belgium more men would be available for other fields, while the west front would be cut down materially. These conditions would be of decided advantage to Germany. King Albert, as soon as he was assured of the continued support of the Allies, declared that a separate peace was impossible.

Two of the highest officers in the Swiss army—Colonel von Watterwyl and Colonel Karl Egli, both holding high rank on the General Staff—are accused of having sent daily reports on the movements of French troops to the German military attaché at Bern.

Partisans of the two colonels are doing their best to set the army against the nation, and more hotheaded anti-militarists are using the affair to further their political ends.

Under such circumstances the guilt or innocence of the accused runs the risk of becoming a merely secondary consideration, the real question at stake being the triumph of one or the other political party.

GERMANY TO REFUSE PEACE CONFERENCE

Fearing British Influence, Will
Discuss Terms Separately.

Amsterdam (via London), Feb. 9.—The "Kölnische Volks Zeitung," discussing peace possibilities, asserts that Germany will never consent to enter a general peace conference, but will only consent to negotiate with each individual enemy.

Germany takes the ground, the paper adds, that a general conference would give Great Britain the upper hand.

2 GERMAN PLANES RAID KENTISH COAST

Two Women and Child Injured
as Bombs Fall Near School.

(By Cable to The Tribune.)

London, Feb. 9.—Two German sea planes, flying very high, approached the coast of Kent yesterday and dropped seven bombs between Ramsgate and Broadstairs. Three of the bombs fell in a field and did no damage except to the windows of one house about 200 yards away. The Germans remained over the coast only a few moments and then disappeared very quickly at sea.

A crowd quickly collected in the field where the bombs were dropped. About two hundred yards away from the nearest hole there is a large elementary school. The children were dismissed, and flocked to the spot with hundreds of townspeople. The sea planes were very light in color and hard to detect in the clouds. It was not realized that they were enemy machines until the bombs were dropped. At Broadstairs the bombs fell around a girls' school. Two women and a child were injured.

SMUTS TO SUCCEED GEN. SMITH-DORRIEN

Ex-Boer Leader to Direct East
Africa Campaign.

London, Feb. 9.—General Sir Horace Lockwood Smith-Dorrien has relinquished the command of the British forces operating in East Africa, owing to ill health, it was officially announced to-night.

General Jan Christian Smuts, the Minister of the Interior, Mines and Defence of the Union of South Africa, has accepted the vacancy with the rank of temporary lieutenant general, the announcement added.

On December 14 last General Smith-Dorrien, who had commanded the British second army in Flanders, was appointed to the supreme command of the forces operating in East Africa. He was in active command there as recently as February 2, according to an official statement issued in London to-night.

BELGIANS REJECT KAISER'S OFFER

Impossible, Replies King
Albert, Buoyed by
Curzon and Haig.

(By Cable to The Tribune.)

London, Feb. 9.—Fresh evidence that Germany is anxious to end the war as soon as possible comes to light every day. There is no question but that she is feeling the pinch hard.

It can be stated now with assurance that she has made a frantic and flattering offer to Belgium, which King Albert has declined to accept, after a conference with Lord Curzon and Sir Douglas Haig, who were sent at his special request for information from the Allied governments.

Aside from a promise to restore the kingdom as it was before the war, Germany offered to return King Albert to the Belgian throne and pay a big indemnity. Germany reserved the right to hold Antwerp and Ostend as German ports. Naturally, neither Albert nor Great Britain was willing to grant this concession under any consideration, so the offer has been flatly turned down.

With the Germans out of Belgium more men would be available for other fields, while the west front would be cut down materially. These conditions would be of decided advantage to Germany. King Albert, as soon as he was assured of the continued support of the Allies, declared that a separate peace was impossible.

Mercier Refuses to Aid German Peace Move

Rome, Feb. 8 (via Paris, Feb. 9).—The "Giornale d'Italia" states that Monsignor Taceti Porcelli, Papal Nuncio to Belgium, presented Germany's proposals for a separate peace to King Albert. Whether he was authorized to do so by the Vatican, says the newspaper, has not been ascertained.

It is said that Germany, through Prince von Buelow and other prominent personages, has indicated that the terms she is ready to offer to Belgium for the concluding of a separate peace comprise the restoration of Belgium to the government of King Albert and the payment of a large indemnity and that she asks in return economic and commercial privileges which would practically transform the port of Antwerp into a German centre of traffic. To these proposals Belgium is said to have replied with a prompt refusal.

Efforts to induce Cardinal Mercier to use his influence in favor of a separate peace have been in vain, it is said. Cardinal Mercier is living in retirement at the chief house of the Redemptorist Fathers in Rome, where he is recuperating from the grip. He is working out plans for the reconstruction of the ecclesiastical seminaries in Belgium in accordance with the provisions of the new Roman Concordat, which has been appointed by Pope Benedict to take charge of seminaries throughout the world.

FILIPINO REPUBLICANS CONDEMN WILSON RULE

Politics Injected Into Island Affairs, Says Convention.

Manila, Feb. 9.—The Republican convention held here to-day endorsed "the non-partisan policy of former administrations," and condemned "the present injection of politics" into Philippine affairs. The resolutions approved the Mexican policies of the Wilson administration.

Newton Gilbert, ex-Vice Governor of the Philippines, and ex-Judge Crossfield were elected delegates to the Republican national convention.

The Progressives held their convention to-day, but the attendance was small, and adjournment being taken, the delegates joined with the Republicans.

KAISER'S SON OSCAR QUITS BATTLE LINE

Heart Weak, but Wounds Not
Serious, Is German Report.

Amsterdam (via London), Feb. 9.—The German newspapers state that Prince Oscar's wounds, recently received in the Eastern war theatre, are not serious, but that as he suffers from a weak heart he will not be able to take further part in the war.

The German Emperor and Empress have received thousands of telegrams congratulating them on Prince Oscar's escape.

Prince Oscar is the Kaiser's fifth son, born in 1888.

The fear that Count von Bernstorff would use his "disavowal" as a lever with which to move the Administration against Great Britain has been very largely dissipated among Administration officials. Not only will the President's plan of campaign against British restraints on commerce not be altered by the Lusitania settlement, it is said, but leaders in Congress have given their assurance to the White House that efforts to force the President's hand will be checked.

In diplomatic circles friendly to the Entente, however, it is declared that the President has already given Germany an ample reward for her compliance with the Lusitania demands in his

WANTS BERLIN TO RECOGNIZE ITS LIABILITY

Merely to "Assume"
Is Not Enough,
He Declares.

SAY GERMANY WILL ACCEDE

Teutons Call Case Ended
—Secretary May With-
draw Demand.

(From The Tribune Bureau.)

Washington, Feb. 9.—Greater difficulties stand in the way of a settlement with Germany than was at first supposed. Although officials are confident, both at the State Department and the embassy, that an agreement will be reached without further quibbling, it became known to-day that Germany had been asked for a further "concession," which, some officials say, may cause her to balk.

"The German government 'assumes' liability for indemnity," is the language of the draft presented to Secretary Lansing last Friday. The Secretary has asked that it be altered to read "recognizes" or "admits" liability. Many officials who have followed the negotiations closely say this may prove a new sticking point.

It is not known how far the State Department will go in pressing this point. Since yesterday's announcement that "an agreement had been made possible" by the ambassador's memorandum, Secretary Lansing has refused to discuss the question. Indications are, however, that he put the amendment forward more as a suggestion than as a demand, and should Germany show an unfriendly spirit in replying to the request he might consider withdrawing it.

Wanted No Further Admission.

He is understood to believe that the same idea is expressed elsewhere in the note, and it was therefore rather to bring the different passages into harmony than to draw any further admission from Germany that he suggested the amendment.

"It will be a mistake if this government permits the word 'assumes' to stand in the note," said an official to-day. "While I believe the disavowal is complete without reference to that word, it sticks out disconcertingly in an otherwise satisfactory note. It is of no value to Germany, but it does form a peg on which a lot of criticism can be hung in this country."

"This government has maintained that Germany's responsibility for indemnity existed from the moment the Lusitania was sunk. The German note grants the justice of that contention. The word 'assumes' is therefore ridiculous."

In German quarters any suggestion of difficulty over the point is brushed aside. "It is all a mere matter of formalities now," is an expression frequently heard.